

A CURIOUS NEW SYRPHID FLY FROM PERU.

By FRANK M. HULL,
University of Mississippi.

An interesting species of Syrphid fly was recently discovered in some miscellaneous material submitted to the author for identification by the U. S. National Museum. I know of no described form into which it will fall, and because of its aberrant relationship, I am presenting a description of it, together with notes on its relationship. This fly is noteworthy for the prominent development of bristles making it peculiarly tachiniform. Since many species of *Volucella* have prominent bristles, this character does not invalidate its position in that subfamily, even though the chaetaceous surface is developed in an unusual way. The wing, too, is volucelliform. The extra tumid face is of course, an extension of what other species possess. The face, however, presents a curious short, laterally widened, rounded antennal joint quite unlike a *Volucella*. I wish to express my thanks to Dr. Chapin for the privilege of studying these flies.

TACHINOSYRPHUS, new genus.

Eyes holoptic, very long pilose indeed. Front and face bloated, tumid and swollen, with appressed bristly hairs; in contour round and smooth and dropping to a short acute cone. Antennae short, third joint subglobose. Arista long and resembling a shellacked bristle. Thorax and scutellum normal, volucelliform. Abdomen oval, flattened slightly, very densely long bristly. Legs, including all femora, quite slender. The venation does not depart from the volucelliform type. Marginal cell closed.

Genotype *Tachinosyrphus pseudotachina*, new species.

Tachinosyrphus pseudotachina, new species.

Male.—Eyes touching with dense, very long, light brownish pile. The swollen vertex, together with a basal eye marginal band, which runs only to the facial crease at the level of the antennae, shining black. Cheeks and occiput, and a short narrow median facial stripe just above oral margin shining black. The lower part of the swollen front and the greatly swollen face light dirty brownish yellow. Face without tubercle but greatly and evenly convex. Face with black bristles, except on the short acute cone below, and densely covered everywhere with very short shining white pile. The pile of the front is black, erect, that of the occiput above and below, white. Antennae short, dull, jet black; the third joint as long as wide, thick, rounded; the arista very long, thickened throughout, shining black and bare.

Thorax shining black, together with scutellum clothed with many very long, slender, black, bristle-like hairs, some pale ones anteriorly. In the proper light may be seen four vittae of golden, very short, appressed hairs, more pronounced on the anterior half. Scutellum shining, bright reddish brown. No pre-scutellar bristles and the calli and humeral bristles not very stout. Pleurae black, dark pilose. Squamae brown with blackish fringe. Halteres with pale knob.

Abdomen bright shining black, the second and third segments on each side in

the middle with a widely separated light brownish yellow spot, reaching the lateral margin in full width, but not touching either anterior or posterior margin. These spots rounded or angular on their medial ends, clothed with dense, long pale pile; the abdomen elsewhere long, dense, black, bristly pilose.

Legs entirely black, black pilose. The hind tibiae apico-ventrally and the hind tarsi ventrally golden pilose. Hind femora slender. Wings quite hyaline. Marginal cell narrow and closed. Spurious vein absent.

Length 12 mm.

Two males and one female. Crucero, Moscardones, Peru. (D. P. Weiss, Coll.)

Holotype male and allotype female in the U. S. National Museum, Cat. No. 51753. Paratype male in the author's collection.

MINUTES OF THE 474TH REGULAR MEETING OF THE ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON, MAY 7, 1936.

The 474th meeting of the society was held at 8.10 P. M., Thursday, May 7, 1936, in Room 43 of the Natural History Building of the National Museum. Thirty-eight members and 28 visitors were present. S. B. Fracker, President, presided. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

There was no miscellaneous business nor notes.

The first paper on the program was by Dr. Alfons Dampf, Government Entomologist of Mexico, and entitled "Rambles of an Entomologist in Mexico." This was a very interesting illustrated talk of Dr. Dampf's experiences and travels over the various states of Mexico from Sonora to Yucatan and into Guatemala. Mosquitoes are among the worst of pests. This paper was discussed by McIndoo.

E. C. Cushing gave the second paper entitled "Some Alaskan Experiences." This was illustrated by slides and movies and told of the speaker's interesting trip to Alaska where he studied the bot-flies attacking reindeer. Fracker, Ewing, Harned, Bridwell and McIndoo discussed the talk.

Upon invitation from the chair, Neale Howard, of Columbus, Ohio, and E. P. Breakey of the Mellon Institute of Pittsburgh, introduced themselves to the Society. Meeting adjourned at 10 P. M.

HENRY H. RICHARDSON,
Recording Secretary.

MINUTES OF THE 475TH REGULAR MEETING OF THE ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON, JUNE 11, 1936.

The 475th meeting of the society was held jointly with the Insecticide Society of Washington, on June 11, 1936, at the University of Maryland at College Park. A large group, including the families from both societies, was present. The picnic supper scheduled to take place in front of the Entomology Building was moved to the Dining Hall because of rain.

The evening meeting was held in the Engineering Hall Auditorium and was called to order at 7.30 P. M. by S. B. Fracker, President. The chair introduced C. M. Smith, President of the Insecticide Society of Washington. Dean Patterson, of the University, welcomed the group to the campus.

As the first speaker of the evening, Dr. C. L. Marlatt, former Chief of the Bureau of Entomology, gave "Some Remarks on the Periodical Cicada." Brood X, which is now present in this region is one of the heaviest if not the heaviest infestation he has encountered. A smaller species of cicada is present with this brood and has the same 17 year period. The 13 and 17 year cycle cicadas can be distinguished only by their different periods, though in places they overlap.

Dr. Waldo L. Schmitt, who was next on the program, gave an interesting talk, illustrated by motion pictures, describing an expedition to the Galapagos Islands. This was mainly a collection trip and some very excellent pictures of the life of the sea-lion, tortoise, fur-seal and tropical birds were given.

Meeting adjourned at 9.30 P. M.

HENRY H. RICHARDSON,
Recording Secretary.